

Development Challenges, South-South Solutions August 2009 Issue

1) Bamboo Becomes Transport Option for the South

The sturdy bamboo plant (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bamboo>) is enjoying a revival around the world as a building material. A strong, fast-growing and highly renewable woody plant, it is becoming increasingly popular as people seek out less environmentally wasteful alternatives to steel and other materials.

But who would have thought bamboo taxis would turn up on the scene?

A fleet of bamboo taxis is now plying the streets in Tabontabon, a municipality in The Philippines that is home to 10,000 people, most of them rice farmers.

Bamboo can sometimes grow more than 1 metre a day. While in Asia, it has long been a traditional construction material, people are now turning to it to make transportation vehicles. In The Philippines, there are 62 species of bamboo, up to 15 of which are suitable for industrial applications.

So-called habal-habal motorcycles, the most popular form of transportation in the town, are also the source of many accidents and are uncomfortable on sunny days or when it rains. A covered taxi service is both a safer and a more comfortable alternative.

The town's mayor, Rustico Balderian, took the initiative to build a fleet of bamboo taxis. He set four criteria the new taxis had to meet: they should be low-cost, fuel efficient, safe and environmentally friendly. The bamboo has a higher tensile strength (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tensile_strength) than steel, which also requires vast quantities of energy to produce.

The taxis are 90 percent made of bamboo and are built by unemployed youth. They are divided into Eco 1 (a model that seats 20 people and runs for eight hours on one gallon of coco-biodiesel from coconuts) (<http://cocobiodiesel.blogspot.com/>), and Eco 2, which seats eight people, has a stereo and sound system, and also runs for eight hours on a gallon of coco-biodiesel.

Both are made by the Tabontabon Organic Transport Industry [TOTI] (<http://totieco.multiply.com/>).

Making vehicles out of bamboo is a serious endeavour that also has been under development in Japan. In 2008, Kyoto University's Venture Business Laboratory (VBL) unveiled a unique single-seat electric vehicle equipped with a body made from bamboo. The vehicle was developed under the Kyoto Electric Car Development Project, which is one of the laboratory's major initiatives. Nicknamed Bamgoo, this eco-car's body is made of braided rods of bamboo, one of the local specialty products of the area.

Other bamboo modes of transport in the South include bamboo bicycles in Ghana. A partnership between an American bike designer and a Ghanaian government initiative is taking advantage of this local resource to manufacture bicycles for the local market - and as a source of export income.

Not only are the Ghanaian builders harvesting bamboo to make bikes for the domestic market, they are also offering a sophisticated online shopping service for the overseas market. People from around the world can now buy Ghanaian bikes using a website (<http://www.bamboosero.com>). Customers can choose frame builders by their specialty – cargo bike, mountain bike or road bike – and then order it online. The completed bikes are quality checked and then distributed by Calfee Design in California, USA. This approach keeps the middlemen out of the transaction, and means more money gets back to the bike builder.

Meanwhile in Cambodia, the legendary bamboo railway is a people's solution to the poor service offered by the established railway system. In the northwest of the country near the second city of Battambang, an entire railway system has been built using bamboo.

The bamboo trains, called 'noris' or 'lorries' by the locals, are driven by a electric generator engine. Passengers sit on a bamboo platform placed on two sets of wheels. The bamboo train reaches speeds of over 40 km/h.

"We're very careful," 18-year-old Sok Kimhor, a 10-year veteran of the bamboo trains, told the BBC. "We look out for children and animals running across the lines, and we have to slow down when other trains come along."

There is just one track, so when two trains meet, one has to be taken off the track to pass.

The regular rail service runs only once a week to the capital, Phnom Penh. This makes the bamboo train the only alternative for many people to get around. While the main railway station is deserted, the bamboo service is a hive of activity.

"They're very safe - a motorbike taxi is too fast, and if I use one of those I sometimes get dizzy and fall off," said Sao Nao as she sat on the rails with a small group of people. "On a bamboo train I can sit down and go to sleep. You can't do that on a motorbike."

Design for Development (<http://designfordevelopment.org/>) is also turning to bamboo for a transport solution. The Canadian NGO is working in Kenya on making five emergency medical transportation devices (EMTD), or ambulances, to move local people to health clinics or hospitals. Bamboo is locally available and they hope to set up a workshop and make the ambulances using local labour.

LINKS:

1) A slideshow of the bamboo taxis. **Website:**
<http://totieco.multiply.com/photos/album/2/ECO2>

2) UNEP, the UN's Environment Programme, has produced a report on bamboo biodiversity and how it can be preserved. **Website:** <http://www.unep-wcmc.org>

3) The Asian Development Bank is using its Markets for Poor programme to link bamboo products to marketplaces, helping poor communities. **Website:**
<http://www.markets4poor.org/>

4) A blog describing the use of coco-biodiesel in the Philippines. **Website:**
<http://cocobiodiesel.blogspot.com/>

2) Kenyan Mobile Phone Innovations

A couple of enterprising Kenyan engineering students are showing how mobile phones are an inventor's dream. Their two inventions – one a way to re-charge phones while bicycling, the other an aid for catching fish – show the potential for adapting this technology to the needs of the poor.

The rapid spread of mobile phones across the South is giving rise to a flurry of invention and experimentation. While many of the new mobile phone-users do not have much money, they are often driven by poverty to invent solutions – and in so doing prove the phones offer many ways to generate income.

According to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Africa is the world's fastest-growing mobile phone market, and the number of subscribers surpassed 300 million in 2008. The number of mobile phone users in the world passed 4 billion in 2008, and the fastest growth was in the South (ITU). The trend towards increasing development of inexpensive handsets means more phones will be reaching even more poor people in the future.

Kenya has seen blistering growth in mobile phone ownership: from just 200,000 users in 2000, there are now more than 17.5 million people with mobile phones out of a population of 38.5 million

As powerful as mobile phones are, they need electricity to keep working. The struggle to find a steady supply of electricity vexes many in the South, so finding cheap or free ways to recharge the phones represents a huge market opportunity.

While mobile phone recharging has become a business in its own right across the South, it is costly as well as time-consuming. Some people spend hours just getting to recharging stations.

To tackle this chronic problem, Engineering students Pascal Katana and Jeremiah Murimi of the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering at the University of Nairobi, Kenya
(http://uonbi.ac.ke/departments/index.php?dept_code=HE&fac_code=32)

have invented a device called the “smart charger.” It is powered by the dynamo that is standard issue with most bicycles sold in Kenya. Dynamos on the bicycle’s back wheel are little electricity generators that use pedal power to illuminate the bike’s lights.

It takes an hour to charge the mobile phone by peddling the bicycle: around the same time it takes to charge a phone using an electricity plug. A one-time charge for somebody can cost up to US \$2 at a recharging service. But the smart charger sells for 350 Kenyan shillings (US \$4.50) – around the cost of two charges.

“We both come from villages and we know the problems,” Murimi told the BBC.

“The device is so small you can put it in your pocket with your phone while you are on your bike.”

The smart charger has been assembled from bits and pieces the duo found: “We took most of (the) items from a junk yard,” Katana said. “Using bits from spoilt radios and spoilt televisions.”

To test the experimental device, workers at the university campus were recruited to have a go.

“I use a bicycle especially when I’m at home in the rural areas, where we travel a lot,” said campus security guard David Nyangoro. “It’s very expensive nowadays charging a phone. With the new charger I hope it will be more economical, as once you have bought it, things will be easier for you and no more expenses.”

Kenya's National Council for Science and Technology (<http://www.ncst.go.ke/>) has now backed the project and the students are exploring ways to mass-produce the smart charger.

Another invention by Katana has adapted a mobile phone to improve fishermen’s success, according to Afrigadget (www.afrigadget.com). It amplifies the sounds made by fish as they feed. As the sound is broadcast outwards from the feeding, other fish are attracted to the same place, believing there is more food. A GPRS/GSM (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Packet_Radio_Service) mechanism in the fishing net is triggered when there is enough fish in the net, and an SMS text message is sent to the fisherman letting him know it is time to haul in the net.

It looks like Pascal Katana can re-charge your phone and fill your plate!

LINKS:

1) Entrepreneurs can track the growth of the mobile phones market here.
Website: www.wirelessintelligence.com

2) SMS Bootcamp: The “SMS Boot Camp” at the University of Nairobi, is a project-based course enabling teams of students to launch and market their own SMS services to the millions of mobile phone users in Kenya. A small amount of seed funding will be available to the best teams interested in turning their project into a commercial venture. **Website:**

<http://eprom.mit.edu/entrepreneurship.html>

3) Mobile Active.org: MobileActive.org is a community of people and organizations using mobile phones for social impact. They are committed to increasing the effectiveness of NGOs around the world who recognize that the over 4 billion mobile phones provide unprecedented opportunities for organizing, communications, and service and information delivery. **Website:**

www.mobileactive.org

4) Textually.org: is the entry point of three weblogs devoted to cell phones and mobile content, focusing on text messaging and cell phone usage around the world, tracking the latest news and social impact of these new technologies. **Website:** www.textually.org/

5) Ushahidi: is a website that was developed to map reports of violence in Kenya after the post-election fallout at the beginning of 2008. The new Ushahidi Engine is being created to use the lessons learned from Kenya to create a platform that allows anyone around the world to set up their own way to gather reports by mobile phone, email and the web - and map them. It is being built so that it can grow with the changing environment of the web, and to work with other websites and online tools. **Website:**

<http://blog.ushahidi.com/>

6) Google Android: Get inventing! This software enables anyone to start making applications for mobile phones. And it offers a platform for developers to then sell the applications to others. **Website:** www.android.com/

7) Afrigadget: is a website dedicated to showcasing African ingenuity. A team of bloggers and readers contribute their pictures, videos and stories from around the continent. **Website:** www.afrigadget.com

3) Info Ladies and Question Boxes: Reaching Out to the Poor

Quick access to accurate and useful information is crucial for development. With the remarkable spread of information around the world via the Internet - one of the greatest achievements of the 21st century – more than 1.5 billion people now use the Web to boost their incomes and opportunities (Internet World Stats).

For those lucky enough to be able to afford regular access to the Internet – as well as a computer and electricity - this new technology is a powerful tool for economic and social advancement. But what about people who are overlooked by technology companies because they are too poor, or too remote, or who are illiterate?

Two initiatives are bringing the benefits of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to the poor and the illiterate in ingenious ways.

Bangladesh's (<http://www.virtualbangladesh.com>) 'Info Lady' scheme is the brainchild of D.Net (Development Research Network) (<http://www.dnet-bangladesh.org/>), a non-profit organization formed in 2001 to use information and communication technology (ICT) for economic development.

Info Ladies typically come equipped with a mobile phone, laptop computer, Internet modem, headphone, webcam, digital camera, and photo printer. They roam around remote villages on bicycles and are a one-stop access point for the rural poor for information, telephone calls and digital services like photography. And Info Ladies can also be Info Men, though this seems to be a problem because women have an easier time being invited into people's homes.

One Info Lady is Luich Akhter Porag. She travels the countryside on her bicycle, equipped with a laptop computer, modem and a mobile phone, and can provide a commercial phone service, photography, livelihood information, knowledge services, international and local voice calls, video and animation and Internet resources.

When farmer Dula Miah had two of his cows bitten by a rabid dog, he was puzzled as to what to do. According to Bangladesh's Daily Star newspaper, Info Lady Luich Akhter Porag came by to help. By using a software programme called 'Jeeon' (<http://www.dnet.org.bd/MultimediaSoftware.php?BookType=8>) - software designed to provide nine essential services to rural people - Porag was able to identify the solution: a vaccine and a trip to the Sundarganj Veterinary Hospital.

Around 24 Info Ladies are now working in various villages in the districts of Gaibandha, Noakhali and Satkhira. The concept is effective: after receiving training in how to use the laptop computer and resources, they are dispatched on bicycles to remote villages to connect the poor and uneducated with crucial information.

D.Net started with something they called 'Mobile Lady' which used just mobile phones, but became frustrated with the limits of the service and decided to combine the phones with a laptop computer, effectively turning the women into mobile 'telecentres' (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telecentre>).

Dr Ananya Raihan, executive director of D.Net, told The Daily Star that each Info Lady now earns between Tk 2,500 (US \$36) and Tk 20,000 (US \$290) per month. It has proven to be a good business for rural women, he said. And things are set to grow: "We are planning to increase the number of info ladies to 1,000 by year-end (2009)."

While traditional technology companies have stayed away from rural villages because it isn't worth it for them to go there, the Info Ladies are

simultaneously making money in the villages and connecting people to the outside world.

Porag says she has provided services to around 6,000 villagers.

"Now I earn more than Tk 2,500 (US \$36) to Tk 3,500 (US \$50) per month after becoming an info lady," said Porag who started working as an Info Lady in June 2007.

Another initiative that is filling the gap between the needs of the poor and powerful information technologies is the Question Box (www.questionbox.org).

Pioneered in India – home to the largest number of illiterate people in the world: 304.11 million (Human Development Report) - the idea is brilliantly simple. An intercom-like white tin box with a phone inside is placed in a village's public areas. Using the existing phone networks, the user just has to hit a simple button to get an operator at the other end. The operator sits in front of an Internet-enabled computer. The user just asks their question, and the operator turns these questions into search queries. When the computer's search engine gives back answers, the operator selects the best one and then replies in the user's native language and in layman's terms.

The Open Mind Program's Question Box Project opened its first Box in September 2007 and now operates in Pune, Maharashtra.

It has also expanded to Uganda, where the Question Box and Grameen Foundation (<http://www.grameenfoundation.org/>) have partnered to bring what they call AppLab Question Box (AQB) to rural Uganda. AQB is a live, local-language telephone hotline service that brings the Internet to the fields and market stalls in Uganda where there are no computers.

The Question Box is based on an idea from Rose Shuman, a business and international development consultant. Shuman had become frustrated that with all the clever people and vast sums of money going into information technology, few were developing low-cost ways to take the power of computers to the people.

Following the constant improvement approach favoured in information technology, the Box is now in its third iteration. One of the adjustments made has been the switch to solar power for the boxes because the electricity grid was too unreliable, according to Shuman.

LINKS:

1) The Question Box project in photos. **Website:** <http://www.flickr.com/photos/73495762@N00/> and **Website:** <http://www.questionbox.org/> and blog: **Website:** <http://questionblog.posterous.com/>

2) Info Dev (www.infodev.org) has a quick guide to low-cost computing devices and initiatives for the developing world. **Website:**
<http://www.infodev.org/en/Publication.107.html>

4) Avoiding Wasting Food and Human Potential with ICTs

Creative use of information technology in the South is helping to address two very different kinds of waste – of food and of human and community potential.

In Ghana, a mobile phone-driven Internet marketplace is helping to improve efficiencies in farming and selling food. Another initiative is addressing the crisis in India's villages by drawing on the diaspora of former villagers now living in urban environments around the world.

Finding ways to efficiently trade food is crucial to keeping hunger at bay and meeting the needs of growing populations. In a report earlier this year, the UN's Environment Programme (UNEP) found that more than half of the world's food is wasted or discarded.

"There is evidence ... that the world could feed the entire projected population growth alone by becoming more efficient," said Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, at the launch of The Environmental Food Crisis: The Environment's Role in Averting Future Food Crises.

Ghana is a country that has already gained a reputation as an IT leader in West Africa (www.ghanaictawards.com). Now a clever technology based in the capital, Accra, is using mobile phones to connect farmers and agricultural businesses and associations to the marketplace. By using SMS (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SMS>) text messages, information from the field is gathered and collated. This can include tracking what is happening on the farm, how crops are surviving the weather, and the status of food inventories day-by-day. All the data is collected by the TradeNet website and displayed with prices and deadlines for buyers and sellers to get in touch with each other. This reduces the time and cost involved in gathering updates from thousands of people across the country.

Launched in 2007, the service recently won the Information Communication Technology innovations contest by the World Summit Award (WAS) (<http://www.wsis-award.org/about/index.wbp>) of the United Nations' World Summit on Information Society (WSIS).

TradeNet is currently collating market data from 13 countries and proclaims itself the largest SMS-based market information service on the continent of Africa. It has more than 12,000 registered users and covers 500 individual markets.

The service's full name is TradeNet: Market Information on your Mobile (<http://www.tradenet.biz/?lang=en>), and it tracks products like ground nuts, sesame, tomato, maize and white beans. It offers market information from

Afghanistan , Benin , Burkina Faso , Cameroon , Cote d'Ivoire , Ghana , Madagascar , Mali , Mozambique , Nigeria , Sudan and Togo.

Founded by its chief executive officer Mark Davies, TradeNet is run out of the internet start-up incubator Busy Lab (<http://www.busylab.com/>) in Accra. Busy Lab specializes in building mobile web solutions for companies and projects involved in rural media and computing.

While in India, villages are in crisis: As India's economy has boomed, its small towns and villages have withered. Home to the majority of the country's population, they are suffering declining populations and high suicide rates. India's urban slums are where people are going; they are growing 250 percent faster than the country's population. Yet so many people share some past connection with the country's 260,000 ailing villages.

And while the world has become a majority urban place, it is acknowledged the future for the environment and agriculture rests in the health of villages.

The social media website Mana Vuru (www.manavuru.com) seeks to connect people living in cities with the villages they were born in, or where their families came from. It is about restoring the broken connection with the village in order to enhance their future development.

As Mana Vuru declares: "Villages form the backbone of our economy. True progress, growth and prosperity can only be realized when villages become self-sustainable."

The site points out that "most villages are suffering from crippling infrastructure and some even lack the basic amenities like electricity and fresh water. We believe that every person who migrated to greener pastures and attained success and wealth should feel some sort of moral responsibility and do their bit for their respective villages."

A project of the Palette School of Multimedia (<http://www.palettemultimedia.com/>) in Hyderabad – one of India's technology hubs – the site lets former village dwellers register and start meeting and connecting with fellow members of the diaspora. Together they can network to help the village address its development challenges.

LINKS:

1) A video story by CNN on Tradenet. **Website:**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6z0ywkHPPQ>

2) BOP Source is a platform for companies and individuals at the BOP (bottom of the pyramid) to directly communicate, ultimately fostering close working relationships, and for NGOs and companies to dialogue and form mutually valuable public-private partnerships that serve the BOP.

Website: <http://bopsource.ning.com/>

3) Afriville is a Web 2.0 service and an African Caribbean social network. Afriville is a community website along the lines of the famous MySpace. Users are free to message and post profiles. The difference is that the user is able to choose how closed or open the networks are. The site features a state of the art music management system which allows African and Caribbean artists to get straight in touch with their fans.

Website: www.afriville.com

4) Business Action for Africa: Business Action for Africa is an international network of businesses and business organisations from Africa and elsewhere, coming together in support of three objectives: to positively influence policies for growth and poverty reduction, to promote a more balanced view of Africa, and to develop and showcase good business practice in Africa

Website: www.businessactionforafrica.org

5) Model Village India: An innovative concept to rejuvenate India's villages and build economies and self-reliance. **Website:**

<http://www.modelvillageindia.org.in/index1.html>

Window on the World

Portfolios of the Poor: How the World's Poor Live on \$2 a Day by Daryl Collins, Jonathan Morduch, Stuart Rutherford and Orlanda Ruthven, Publisher: Princeton University Press. Financial diaries from households in Bangladesh, India and South Africa. **Website:** www.amazon.com

La ChinAfrique by Michel Beuret, Serge Michel and Paolo Woods, Publisher: Grasset and Fasquelle. Portraits of China's involvement in recent years on the continent of Africa. **Website:** [www. Amazon.fr](http://www.amazon.fr)

Africa's Private Sector: What's Wrong with the Business Environment and What to Do About It by Vijaya Ramachandran, Alan Gelb and Manju Kedia Shah, Publisher: Center for Global Development. Why has private business yet to take off in much of sub-Saharan Africa? **Website:** www.cgdev.org

Designing High-density Cities for Social and Environmental Sustainability edited by Edward Ng, Publisher: Earthscan. **Website:** <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=21001>

ICT for Economic Growth: A Dynamic Ecosystem Driving the Global Recovery Publisher: World Economic Forum. An analysis of how information and communication technologies (ICT) can serve as fundamental enablers for the global economic recovery. Demonstrating the importance of ICT as a catalyst for growth, the report highlights the industry's complex and interdependent relationships, new collaborative business opportunities and the need for stable policy frameworks to ensure sustained investment, innovation and fair competition. **Website:** http://www.weforum.org/en/media/Latest%20Press%20Releases/PR_ICT09

2009

August

Maker Faire Africa

Accra, Ghana (14-16 August 2009)

A celebration of African ingenuity, innovation and invention. The aim of Maker Faire is to create a space on the continent where Afrigadget-type (www.afrigadget.com) innovations, inventions and initiatives can be sought, identified, brought to life, supported, amplified, and propagated. Maker Faire Africa asks the question: "What happens when you put the drivers of ingenious concepts from Mali with those from Ghana and Kenya, and add resources to the mix?"

Website: www.makerfaireafrica.com

Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment

Daejeon, Korea (17-21 August 2009)

The conference theme is Climate Change: Our Challenge. It brings together 400 participants between 10 and 14 years old from over 100 countries. It is sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme and the UNEP National Committee for the Republic of Korea.

Website: http://www.unep.org/Tunza/Children/Events/icc_2009/

United We Stand / Building a Sustainable Economy - Conference & Trade show

Washington DC, USA (18-19 August 2009)

B2B/B2G Marketing & Networking Event dedicated to businesses, industry leaders, organizations and government officials that will utilize private and government initiatives to create a renewable energy based economy within ten years.

Website: www.projectgreenamerica.com

2nd World Congress of Agroforestry

Nairobi, Kenya (23-28 August 2009)

The Congress will assess opportunities that will leverage agroforestry science and development to promote sustainable land use worldwide. Through keynote presentations, symposia and technical sessions, Congress participants will explore how agroforestry is making contributions to the global challenges of food security, climate change, biodiversity conservation and human health. The 2nd World Congress of Agroforestry will provide a global forum for agroforestry professionals to share knowledge, experiences and ideas, and to plan future strategies in agroforestry research, education and training of knowledge-sharing initiated during the 1st World Congress of Agroforestry held in 2004 in Florida, USA.

Website: <http://www.worldagroforestry.org/wca2009/>

e-India 2009: India's Largest ICT Event

Hyderabad, India (25-27 August 2009)

This three-day international conference and exhibition is a unique platform for knowledge sharing in different domains of ICT for development and facilitates multi-stakeholder partnerships and networking among governments, industry, academia and civil society organisations of different countries, including the host country- India. The objective is to bring together ICT experts, practitioners, business leaders and stakeholders of the region onto one platform, through keynote addresses, paper presentations, thematic workshops and exhibitions.

Website: <http://www.eindia.net.in/2009/>

Sustainability and Leadership: Making Green Strategies Work for Your Business

Los Angeles, USA (31 August to 11 September 2009)

An intensive program designed for professionals who are leaders in their organizations and understand the long-term value of incorporating green innovations into their strategy, products, operations, and brand management. This program will introduce new models and tools that support environmental management while enhancing corporate performance.

Website: www.summer.ucla.edu/Institutes/SustainableBusiness/overview.htm

September**International Conference on Urban Form**

Ganzhou, China (4 September 2009)

The theme of the conference is Urban morphology and urban transformation. The organizers and the Council of ISUF (Sixteenth International Seminar on Urban Form) invite participation in the Conference by interested academics and professionals.

Website: www.urbanform.org/sem/sem2009.html

Aqua Farming International Exhibition 2009

Vigo, Spain (16-19 September 2009)

This first Aqua Farming International exhibition is held under the umbrella of the World Fishing Exhibition, which will attract a large number of visitors and will be the hub of the international fishing scene.

Website: www.aquafarminginternational.com/index.php?lang=en

EABIS Annual Colloquium 2009

Barcelona, Spain (21-22 September 2009)

This year's Colloquium will focus on the governance of the firm, in the context of new global governance challenges. We also have particular interest in how the role of business in society is likely to change and to what extent governance mechanisms can foster corporate responsibility at the global, company and individual levels.

Website:

www.iese.edu/en/events/OtrosEventos/EABISColloquium2009/Home/test.asp

RENEXPO 2009

Augsburg, Germany (24-27 September 2009)

International Trade Fair and Conference for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient Building and Renovation.

Website: www.renexpo.de/index.php?id=7&L=1

Call for Proposals is Open: Global Youth Enterprise Conference

Washington, DC, USA (29-30 September 2009)

What is your vision for this field in 2020? How are your initiatives and ideas turning that vision into reality for young people to have greater access to entrepreneurial and employment opportunities? We invite you to submit a proposal to present in this year's Global Youth Enterprise Conference.

Website: www.youthenterpriseconference.org

Program available: www.youthenterpriseconference.org/agenda.asp

October**Renewable Energy World Asia 2009**

Bangkok, Thailand (7-9 October 2009)

Renewable Energy World Asia, co-located with POWER-GEN Asia, is a leading conference and exhibition dedicated to the power generation and transmission and distribution industries, attracting 6,000 delegates and attendees from over 50 countries from across South East Asia and around the world.

Website: www.powergenasia.com/index.html

Global Forum on Local Development

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (12-16 October 2009)

The new wave of decentralization since 1990 is based on the rediscovery of the "local dimension" of development, and the related recognition of local government's potential role and added value in promoting local development and contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Local development is a complex multi-actor process comprising households, communities, local and national governments. While local governments are not the only entities promoting local development, they are increasingly key players at the forefront of delivering local development outcomes. Sponsors: UNCDF

Website: www.dpwg-lgd.org/cms/upload/pdf/NL-3-12-2008.pdf

Nominate (or apply to be) a 2009 Pop!Tech Social Innovation Fellow

Camden, Maine, USA (21-24 October 2009)

You know you want to be a Pop!Tech Fellow. Or you know someone who will want to be. Think you have what it takes to join this select company?

Pop!Tech just announced its selection process for up to 15 next-generation world-changing people who are incubating new approaches to some of the world's toughest challenges. Fellows participate in an all-expenses-paid, multi-day intensive development program focused on insights, tools and skills

for accelerating and scaling "big bet" innovations in areas like healthcare, energy, development, mobile technology, climate, education, and civic engagement, among others. Fellows receive world-class training in areas like branding, design, measuring impact, media relations, social/Web2.0 media, finance, leadership, digital storytelling and organizational development. These sessions are led by remarkable leaders in these areas.

Website: www.poptech.org/nominate/

European Development Days 2009

Stockholm, Sweden (22-24 October 2009)

Yearly event hosted jointly by the European Commission and the EU Presidency. The European Development Days bring some 4,000 people and 1500 organisations from the development community together on an equal footing. Delegates from 125 countries are represented, including heads of state and leading world figures, Nobel prize winners among them. The event aims to make development aid more effective, to build a global coalition against poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Through frank and sometimes controversial debates on pressing issues, such as governance, poverty and environmental sustainability, the European Development Days provide unprecedented opportunities for sharing ideas and launching innovative partnerships.

Website: www.eudevdays.eu

OECD 3rd World Forum: Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life

Busan, Korea (27-30 October 2009)

The next World Forum, focused on **Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life** will attract some 1,500 high level participants with a mixture of politicians and policy makers, opinion leaders, Nobel laureates, statisticians, academics, journalists and representatives of civil society from over 130 countries.

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/chqjll>

CSR Asia Summit 2009

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (27-28 October 2009)

With the theme "Sustainable Business as the Road to Recovery", the Summit will explore key CSR issues and strategies in Asia to demonstrate leadership in times of turbulence.

Website: <http://www.csr-asia.com/summit09/>

November

5th International Microinsurance Conference

Dakar, Senegal (3-5 Nov 2009)

This event is hosted by the Microinsurance Network (formerly the CGAP Working Group on Microinsurance), the Munich Re Foundation, supported by the Conference Interafricaine des Marches d'Assurances (CIMA), the African Insurance Organisation (AIO), the Fédération des Sociétés d'Assurances de

Droit National Africaines (FANAF), the World Bank, the Journal of Risk and Insurance, GTZ and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/mtgzfq>

Social and Political Dimensions of the Global Crisis: Implications for Developing Countries

Geneva, Switzerland (12-13 November 2009)

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) will host an international conference in Geneva to better understand the social and political dimensions of the current crisis and subsequent policy and institutional reforms, and their implications for developing countries. In addition, the conference will provide an opportunity to identify key issues for future research in this field.

Website:

www.networkideas.org/events/jun2009/UNRISD_Conference_2009.pdf

Impact of the Base-of-the-Pyramid Ventures

Delft, Netherlands (16-18 November 2009)

The purpose of this conference is to increase BoP knowledge on value creation and impact assessments by bringing together keynote speakers and delegates from business, academia, NGOs and the public sector. The conference will provide a platform to share conceptual and empirical evidences that address ways to better understand and increase the sustainability impacts of BoP ventures in terms of changes in economic, capacity, environmental and relational well-being.

Website: <http://www.bopimpact.nl/>

Second International Conference Multinational Enterprises and Sustainable Development: Strategies for Sustainable Technologies and Innovations

Nancy, France (4-6 November 2009)

The 2009 MESD Conference focuses on the issue of Strategies for Sustainable Technologies and Innovations. This event is designed for management scholars, economists, lawyers, sociologists and those in relevant engineering fields. It encourages participants to consider and share potential answers to questions such as why, when and how innovative and strategic technological choices will be made and deployed. It also compares worldwide corporate policies and best practices.

Website: www.mesd2009.org/

4th Sustainability Summit: Asia 2009, Winning Strategies for a Sustainable World

New Delhi, India (25-26 November 2009)

The compelling mix of high energy prices, natural resources constrain, environmental degradation, the have and have-nots divide, terrorism and militancy, financial crisis, governance inefficiencies, failure of capitalism, is inducing the need for transformational change to arrest further damage. The Summit is focused on how visionary businesses and institutions are turning crisis into opportunity to change our world into one that is sustainable and all inclusive. The Summit has been designed to provide real-world experience

taking participants through the experience of ideating to transformation through action. It provides a diversity of winning experiences in the two days, because it enriches the learning, creating a stronger participation experience.

Website: www.sustainabledevelopment.in/

2010

Clear Profit 9/10: The Annual Forum for Responsible Investors and Investees: CALL FOR PAPERS

London, UK (25 February 2010)

Clear Profit's 4th annual conference is being designed to provide a fresh perspective on key challenges faced by responsible investors and investees. Attendees have included leading figures in responsible investment and corporate responsibility, NGO finance and campaign professionals, and senior policy makers. For the first time the conference will offer multiple streams, allowing delegates the chance to consider a wide range of topics in breakaway round table sessions. As a basis for building the programme, we would like to invite potential speakers to make a session proposal. Just two or three paragraphs will do. If you would like to make such a proposal, register your interest in attending, or find out more about the benefits of sponsoring, please email event@clear-profit.com

Website: <http://www.clear-profit.com/events.html>

Happy Planet Index

The Happy Planet Index reveals the ecological efficiency with which human well-being is delivered. The index combines environmental impact with human well-being to measure the environmental efficiency with which, country by country, people live long and happy lives. Learn about the ideas behind the HPI, how it is calculated, why we need it and what it can teach us.

Website: www.happyplanetindex.org/

African Economic Outlook

A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels.

Website: www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en

Appeal for Help

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

Website: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228VQ3HV6D3>

MobileTech4SocialChange

They have also set up a Wiki with the latest notices about upcoming events around the world.

Website: <http://mobiletech4socialchange.pbworks.com/>

Training Opportunities

Ongoing

Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs

Grameen Bank, <http://www.grameen-info.org/training/>

Sustainable Tourism Criteria Announced

The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

Website: www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org

The Citizen Journalism in Africa Programme

The Hivos/SANGONeT Civil Journalism in Africa Project aims at building the capacity of civil society organisations to use online and offline citizen journalism as a means of publication, lobby, networking and knowledge sharing with their constituencies. The focus will be on both traditional and new media. Special attention will be given to the development of sound and ethical journalistic, lobby, networking and publication skills. Supported by the European Union, the project will be implemented over the next three years.

Website: www.citizenjournalismafrica.org

The Grassroots Reporting Project

One of our goals at AfriGadget (www.afrigadget.com) is to find more stories of African ingenuity. The Grassroots Reporting Project is our plan to find, equip and train more AfriGadget reporters in the field throughout Africa. AfriGadget's goal is to leverage the power of current and emerging technology such as video cameras, digital cameras, laptops and phones to bring quality content online and eventually on television. A combination of mobile phones and computers will be assigned to individuals in 10 African countries for the purpose of getting more on-the-ground reporting of stories of African ingenuity to the world. An AfriGadget editor will be in charge of identifying the best candidates for inclusion in the program. This editor will also travel to each country to train and equip the new AfriGadget reporters for the program.

This is possible by creating a network of field reporters who report on stories that meet the following criteria:

- Ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way.
- Interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways.
- Practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way.
- Entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions.

Website: www.afrigadget.com/

Jobs and Careers

DevWire.eu - the Media Portal to EU Development Cooperation

The idea behind this site is to support journalists in their EU development coverage. This single entry point provides a comprehensive source of news and background - relevant, up to date and reliable.

Website: <http://www.devwire.eu>

Evidence-Based Policy in Development Network

This website aims to establish a worldwide community of practice for think tanks, policy research institutes and similar organisations working in international development, to promote more evidence-based, pro-poor development policies.

Website: <http://ebpdn.org>

Exporthelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

Website: <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

ilissAfrica - Africa Virtual Library on the Internet

This web portal helps with tracking down relevant literature on a specific African topic or country. Users can search for books, anthologies, journal articles and Internet resources. Users are pointed to the relevant website or library where a book or journal can be found. The portal is a joint project of the University Library in Frankfurt and the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies in Hamburg.

Website: <http://www.ilissafrika.de>

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects. **Website:** www.devex.org

New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website:
<http://bizzlounge.com>

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: <http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com>

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website:

www.diasporaafricanforum.org

Eldis Communities

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.

Website: <http://community.eldis.org>

Enterprise Development Exchange

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

Website: <http://edexchange.seepnetwork.org>

Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world's five continents.

Website: <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>

Global Development Matters

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction.

Website: www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org

GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

Websites: Africa: <http://www2.gtz.de/network/wiram-afrika/gtz-community/>
Middle East and North Africa: <http://www2.gtz.de/network/mena/open-community/>

Asia: <http://www2.gtz.de/assets-asia/gtz-community/>

LED knowledge

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

Website: www.ledknowledge.org

Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

Website: www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/index.html

TakingITGlobal.org

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

Website: <http://profiles.takingitglobal.org>

XING Group Microfinance Industry

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

Website: www.xing.com/group-21391.0fc826/4466179

AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

Website: www.afdevinfo.com

Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

Website: www.growinginclusivemarkets.org

The Soul Beat

The Soul Beat shares a selection of programme experiences, strategic thinking documents, and materials related to the use of mobile telephones for social change in Africa. If you would like your organisation's communication work or research and resource documents to be featured on the Soul Beat

Africa website and in The Soul Beat newsletters, please contact soulbeat@comminit.com

3D -> Trade - Human Rights - Equitable Economy

3D promotes collaboration amongst trade, development and human rights professionals, to ensure that trade rules are developed and applied in ways that promote an equitable economy. 3D believes that the human rights framework provides strong tools for ensuring a more equitable economy.

Website: www.3dthree.org/en/index.php

Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world. Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on color markers to learn more about each country.

Website: <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>

AiDA launches an Interactive Map

AiDA is one of Development Gateway's aid management tools, which supports the aid effectiveness agenda by publishing information on development activities to help donors coordinate and harmonize their development efforts. With the use of an interactive map generated with technology from Google, development practitioners now have access to a geographical interface for information normally available through the AiDA Web site. Users can click on any country in the world and view a summary of the development activities that are taking place there.

Website: <http://aida.developmentgateway.org/aida/viewMap.do>

Trustive World-wide WiFi Access

The reality of WiFi is usually a fragmented service with different hotspot operators having their own log in methods, billing systems and coverage restricted to certain countries or even cities. The Dutch provider Trustive decided to overcome these challenges in order to improve this reality for the whole Trustive community. Following 5 years of heavy investment and the conclusion of strong roaming agreements with 70+ hotspot operators in 65+ countries, Trustive is now able to offer a seamless service that is both reliable and competitively priced across a unified and ever expanding network of 65,000 WiFi hotspots in 65+ countries, including 350+ airports.

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/trustive>

Fellowship Opportunity

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

Website: <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website:

http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

[Click here for more information](#)

or contact:

namstct@vsnl.com,

namstct@bol.net.in,

apknam@gmail.com

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

Website: www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd

US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250 000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

Website: www.architectureforhumanity.org

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The University of Ghana (www.ug.edu.gh) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution (www.agra-alliance.org) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: <http://www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10>

Institute of Social Studies in The Hague

A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social bookmarking online resources in international development.

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund

They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2009 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs).

Website: www.echoinggreen.org/

Funding

The Africa Land Fund

The fund has raised almost €2 billion from an American pension fund to invest in African agriculture. The Africa Land Fund, created by the UK-based hedge fund Emergent Asset Management, wants to raise a total of €3 billion and is canvassing a range of investors. It plans to invest in agricultural land and livestock, including African game, which will be sold on to private reserves and safari parks. The fund also plans to develop bio fuel crops on marginal land, saving prime agricultural acreage for crops to feed people.

Email: info@eaml.net
Tel: +44 (0) 1428 656 966
Fax: +44 (0) 1428 656 955

Google.org

While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

We want to show that SMEs can be profitable investments. We will do this by focusing on lowering transaction costs, deepening capital markets to increase liquidity, and catalyzing capital for investment.

Website: www.google.org

Challenge

InnoCentive (<http://www.innocentive.com/>) is a challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable. It is an open marketplace where anybody with a problem can post it, and rewards for effective solutions stretch up to US \$100,000. They use rigorous intellectual property protection so ideas are not stolen without credit being given to the inventor. You can read more about the challenges here:

www.rockfound.org/about_us/news/2007/0720first_seeker.shtml

Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: www.socialedge.org

Job Opportunities

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [Find a Job in Africa](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)

- Rescue Committee
- Internews
- IREX
- Organization for International Migration
- UNICEF
- World Bank
- World Wildlife Fund (Cameroon)